



Compelled To Go Compelled To Go

LUMglobal #115

May 9, 2014

THIS IS A LONG LETTER! So much is happening in so many places, and we feel you need to know about them. There's a lot to share. Thanks for your patience.

Dear Friends, Family, and In-Pact Partners:

Greetings from the Ozarks as Spring continues to awaken into beautiful and colorful vegetation at our place. The weather has been erratic and unpredictable, the Spring colors have been amazing as cooler temps have extended the blooming season. We awaken every morning curious to see what the weather will be like that day. The temps have been up and down like a yoyo. Bob added an album on Facebook. Either go to his Facebook page, or try clicking on or copying and pasting https://www.facebook.com/bob.tolliver.52/media_set?set=a.10152465119969047.1073741842.677804046&type=3. Here are three "teasers", but not the best ones.



As we wait for direction, we're using the time to catch up on needed work around the property. One of our bigger projects was to redo some flower beds near the house. Last year almost all of our shrubs and flowering trees we had planted that year died. So, it was time to buy some Azalea's, flowering pear trees, and flowers . . . and make another attempt. Also, Bob has done some major work in the garage, installing some great heavy duty metal shelving he bought at local auctions. Things are beginning to look better. Check the Facebook pix.



We rest assured in God's declaration that there is "a season for everything", and the season for us at this point is to have this time off the road for things neglected far too long. The slogan God put in our hearts last Summer remains strong. We are still "**Compelled to Go!**" We're just waiting to see what all that may mean.

What's Been Happening With Us: Several weeks ago we were able to visit FBC in Eldorado Springs, MO, (where Bob served as interim in 2003). The pastor asked him to bring an update on what's going on in Ukraine and how it was affecting ministry there. We had a good time reconnecting with good friends. That church supported us while we were in Ukraine.

Bob continues refining & editing several manuscripts, and writing his weekly "Shoulders" e-letter, still focusing on the 2014 theme for the year, "**Bold, Courageous, Fit, and Confident!**" He has written for nineteen consecutive weeks on the topic, focusing first on being Bold, Courageous and Confident in prayer, and for the past six weeks on being Bold, Courageous, and Confident in God's Word. There've probably been more positive responses to this series than anything he's written about in the past three years.

Three weeks ago we went to IA for Sara Carsten's wedding. She's the daughter to Rod and Janie Carsten, founding board members of Life Unlimited Ministries. We first met them in 1976, and soon they became members of the church and influential leaders. When we incorporated LUM in 1981, they immediately came on board and remain as board members. We also saw Ron and Zelda Kallem. Ron was chairman of the

pastor search committee that called Bob to that church. God called Ron to preach, succeeding Bob after we began traveling full time with Life Unlimited. The following week-end we went to Galesburg, IL, to spend time with Deanna and family as JoyLinn performed in the Academy of Fine Arts' production of "Aladdin". It's an amazing organization training young people in all areas of theater. The cast of 57 kids 4th thru 11th grade was great. This was JoyLinn's fourth production. She didn't wear her glasses on stage.



Syrian Pastor: The Syrian pastor we wrote about last time could not leave Russia and now has permanent residency. That setback resulted in a very important ministry to Muslims living in Russia (Pic #1 below). He hopes to get his family out of Syria into Russia. His financial needs are large for his family, and new ministry. Contact us if interested. Bob got a message from him recently telling us that he's sharing the Gospel with an Arab Sheik (Pic #2 below) via social media on a regular basis, and the Sheik is very interested and open.



Joel and Ira Colon: Joel and Ira (Pic #3 above) are special. Ira was Bob's translator the last year he taught at St. James Bible College in 2005. Joel helped develop the Latino church we planted. They were active at KIBC and now have their own church planting and training ministry. They still serve the Lord faithfully in spite of the crisis in Ukraine, training young leaders, conducting marriage seminars, and recently partnered with "M" and "M2" in media production for the Farsi website. "M" describes that in his report below.

Farsi Update: In spite of challenges and troubles in Ukraine, the work progresses. "F" has a possible status change that might give him permanent residency in Germany. "M" and Ira lost \$3,500 due to the political unrest throwing the bank they use into lock down. It is not clear how much if any will be recovered. He also faces possible military service due to the conflict. However, the work has grown. One of the most exciting things is to see the video production now in full swing. Here are excerpts from "M"'s latest update report.

>< >< >< >< ><

Dear Friends and Kingdom Partners,

The past 2 months have been exciting & terrifying at the same time. As Ukraine went through a revolution & a corrupt government with its "king" overthrown, we all saw death of more than 100 innocent people & still many injured people. . . . tens of thousands of Russian soldiers are still at the border of Ukraine, ready to attack. So far, it has not happened. We continue praying it won't happen. We've experienced an economic nose-dive, & businesses are suffering great loss. Ukrainian currency (Hrivna) has lost its value over 50% against Dollar and Euro, & the prices of imported goods & stuff (like gas) have jumped 25% to 30% . . .

. . . as a Ukrainian citizen [now], I've received notice to show up in the military base for registration & training. My health situation doesn't allow me to engage in any military activities since I can't lift more than several pounds & my side still hurts when I do. But, in order to prove that I'm not capable of going to training, I have to undergo a long medical examination, & the results of that would finally fall into the hands of military medical committee, & in turn, they'd decide whether or not my excuse is valid. Having said all that, the Lord shows again & again that He's our insurance and shield.

+ Video Production and Social Network: "M2" & I were finally able to start recording disciple videos in the studio. Our goal is to . . . broadcast to 10 million Farsi speaking people over satellite channels. We also have a Facebook page & YouTube channel through which we engage visitors & post our videos & teaching

materials. [It] also helps in attracting people. Our online ministry is called "Face to Face". . . . "one person teaching and discipling another". An advertising campaign [financed by a friend targets] Farsi speaking Christians inside Iran. The interesting fact is that . . many [unbelieving] Muslims engage on our page and ask questions. We shoot professional quality videos in a professional Christian TV studio. You can take a look at our first unfinished video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgD9Xkjqr0I&feature=em-share_video_user. See our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Face-to-Face/195538370642405?fref=ts>.



The cost of booking the studio is [normally] \$875 per day [but], we were able to get it for \$150. A mission organization has committed to give \$150 to cover the cost. We only need one day a month to shoot, and the rest of the month to prepare materials to shoot 7 hours of high quality videos, & then edit, cut & add graphics . Nobody takes a salary. . . . I go to the studio 3-4 times a week to work on materials & help with the process. I also meet with friends who help with preparing the Bible studies & teaching materials. Because of my health situation, I can't use public transportation (I shouldn't catch cold since I can't take antibiotics), so that has added to gas costs significantly. Since gas prices have gone up 30%, I need an additional \$200-\$250 every.

+ Translation/Publishing Ministry: I translated a book about Persecution & is currently being downloaded in Iran. An upcoming project is a booklet on "Divorce and Remarriage". "F" (leader of Farsi ministry in Germany) & I also have a domain (Farsimo.com). We are working on a website to hold all our translated & published materials It will allow users to create personal accounts, find reading partners, write reviews, etc.

We want to form teams of professional translators & editors, & translate top Christian books into Farsi. We [will] ask permission of the authors & provide free downloadable copies or low cost hard copies of their books. The website also encourages new Christians to read books & share insights with each other. There's currently only one such ministry world-wide (only publishing). Unfortunately, . . . their good books. . . come to only 100. Think about good books that touched your spiritual life, and then you can imagine the opportunities ahead!

Another urgent need is for translating help. Most of our material is first prepared in English (with the help of expert American missionary friends), & then translated into Farsi. About 100 pages need to be translated monthly. I can translate 50 pages at most [because] of all my other responsibilities. So I want to hire a Farsi translator (a persecuted Iranian who fled to Armenia & has lived there for the past several months) to translate the other 50 pages for the ministry. It will cost an extra \$100-\$150. So, we need another \$350 to get this project going. Please pray for us, and if the Lord opens to you to support this ministry, drop us a note.

Thank you for your partnership, prayers, support and love. It's encouraging knowing that you pray for us. Please continue praying for Ukraine and the situation with Russian army. We need the Lord's intervention now. Please also pray for video production, for the Lord to provide all the money needed to cover the expenses, and for the translation/publishing ministry so through the power of the Holy Spirit, we could make this happen.

In His love, "M"

><> ><> ><> ><> ><>

Sergey and Siberian Buryats: We continue receiving reports from our Ukrainian friend, Sergey, and his family serving among the Buryats in Serbia just north of the Mongolian border. Here is the latest: "Our evangelism team continues actively sharing the Word of God with lots of people. Last week there was a wonderful three-days trip to the town of Kyakhta. We have two ladies from that town that repented in our church and put their trust in God. One lady remained there, another one moved to Ulan-Ude (though she has a house which remained in the town). [We were able to] stay at her house to visit many acquaintances and share the Gospel message with others. All the team was excited as they watched people open toward the Word of God. "They visited many Buryat families, where the people willingly listened to the message and then prayed a sinner's prayer. One sister was sincerely converted to God through our ministry. She showed a farewell letter which she wrote to her loved ones, because she was about to end her life with suicide. But at the last moment she was stopped by something unknown and afterward she came to church. She put her faith in God and as the result, her life was radically transformed. As she showed the letter she was so thankful to God for being found by Him and she's still alive. Due to that ministry her brother and many other relatives of hers put their trust in the Lord. 26 people prayed sinner's prayer and about 250 people heard the Good News. Thanks for having you with us, and for praying for us. Please, continue to pray for our team, for new-converted Christians, for divine provision to continue to go and visit these groups" ---- Pastor Sergey and team of evangelists.

Looking Ahead: Several things have developed since our last letter. In May we will speak at a missions conference at Oakwood Church in Lee Summit, MO. In June Cindy and her family return to the Sates for a year, and we will speak at Bales Community Church, a merge of Bales Baptist Church and Living Faith KC with whom we worked for a year and a half. In July we will speak at the Pulaski Baptist Association youth camp, as camp missionaries. Then in August we hope to return to Europe for two to three months of ministry with our Farsi team and others. Our hearts say "YES!", but finances have not yet agreed. We will again "headquarter" in Giessen, Germany, and will travel to other countries as the needs develop. Finally, we will continue on to Burma in Southeast Asia to join friends Richard & Stephanie Blake in training young leaders at the Yangong (formerly Rangoon) Grace Bible School. That is a totally new field of ministry for us, ministering in an Asian culture in a predominantly Buddhist country.

At this time, we continue waiting for more opportunities to minister. We still have a passion for students, and long to spur them on to follow Jesus and become disciple makers, wherever it takes them. We also have an almost unbearable burden for churches that are dying, stagnant, or are caught up in active fervor with little or no real fruit to show. We believe strongly in planting new churches that are modeled after the New Testament pattern and free from burdensome and often complicated systems and structures. We are wholeheartedly committed to teaching and training believers in other nations and in sharing the Gospel with unbelievers there.

While we are home and not away for ministry or for personal reasons, we will continue our ministry to others through the social media, seek out opportunities for local ministry, try to develop some video material that will let us multiply our usefulness, and do some much needed updating and repair on our home. We will also intensify our preparation for our return trip to Europe.

Special Message From Ukraine: Earlier this week Jo Ann got a message from a missionary friend who remains in Ukraine. We want to include excerpts to give you a feel of what our Christian friends are facing.

My heart is sad. I am weary from it. . . as weary and tired as I am from the stress of all of this, the Ukrainian people are more so. . . . It is mostly a waiting game, although I have read in many places that Putin wants to invade soon so as to disrupt the upcoming elections. But as I read the Old Testament, I see so many similarities of the situation in Ukraine and Israel. . . . When I think of all the impossibilities for Ukraine, I am reminded that Israel was always the weaker vessel. Yet with God, they were the victors. I see Ukraine as David and Putin as Goliath.

Putin is so smug and proud. Ukraine has been on her knees looking to God for help. . . . I know it is all in His hands and He knows His plans and His plans are for good. So I pray for His help and leave it in His hands. . . . Sometimes I wonder why no one really is helping substantially here, but then I think if they did Ukraine would give the credit to the others for victory. I am praying for God to get the glory.

. . . I would say the biggest change from all this is the urgent call to evangelize. . . . We continue our outreach activities that have been fruitful, but are now challenged to have a lifestyle of evangelism. . . . The Kiev church has been amazing. . . . God has used them so much during this time. They even have gone to the cities that were having great conflict to set up a prayer tent and pray with the people there. They along with other denominations set up a prayer tent at the beginning of the protests in Kiev and have remained even now. . . . Since the protests, there has been so much unification. They have worked together to reach out to all in need.

I think I wrote about my exit plan already. I have no plans to leave at this time. So far only one couple left for a few days because they were in a hot spot but they have returned and are in another city for the time being. No one else has left. . . . of our missionaries. If those other than the peace corp have left, I haven't heard about it. We want to be with the Ukrainian people. . . . I have bags mostly packed but will rejoice if I don't use them. I am at peace. I am not afraid. . . . There is no country that I would rather be in right now. I am grateful to be here. Praise God! He is able!

Prayer Requests: Needless to say, we have some very serious prayer requests, including . . .

- + Our Syrian pastor friend, Saied, and his ministry to Arabic speaking Muslims in Russia & on Facebook.
- + Wisdom in making right decisions regarding future ministry direction.
- + Financial support for our Syrian pastor friend, Sergey in Russia, and "M" and the growing Farsi ministry.
- + Joel and Ira, Janice, and other friends remaining faithful in ministry in a volatile situation in Ukraine.
- + A peaceful resolution to the situation in Ukraine.
- + An increase in our monthly support base so we can do more. We still usually come up short.
- + Genuine brokenness, repentance and revival in America's churches, and believers who will pay the price.
- + Doors to open for conferences, revivals, seminars, etc.
- + Physical energy and financial resources to do repairs and upgrading around the house.
- + Financial and prayer support for our Europe/Asia trip August through October.

Finally: Thank you beyond words for your encouragement, prayer, and financial support. Please let us hear from you and tell us what you think. We value your insight and wisdom.

In His Bond, By His Grace, and For His Kingdom
Bob and Jo Ann (The Tollivers)